Evaluation of benefits accruing out of Customs duty

*209. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a monitoring cell to evaluate the benefit passed on to the consumer due to exemption and concession in customs duty; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Establishment of Wind Power Stations at Kanyakumari

*210. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new sites have been selected at Kanyakumari for the establishment of wind power stations; and

(b) if so, what is the total capacity of the wind power stations that are already functioning in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Wind power programme is implemented with the assistance of the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources as demonstration programme through various State nodal agencies in the country. In addition, in Tamil Nadu, because of the facilities given by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, private sector entreprenuers are also installing wind electric generators in the State. A large number of private sector wind electric generators are located in Kanyakumari District. No new sites have been selected at Kanyakumari as part of the demonstration programme presently under implementation. Proposals for installing wind electric generators by private parties are approved by Tamil Nadu Electricity Board directly.

Wind data recorded at Sembagramanpudur and Katadimalai sites in Kanyakumari district indicate good potential for setting up wind power projects.

(b) As on 31-03-92, wind power projects of 8.84 MW aggregate capacity are functioning in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts; of which 3.25 MW capacity has been set up by the private sector in these two districts.

Opposition to Dunkel proposals by Pharmaceutical Industry

@ *211. SHRI J. P. JAVALI:

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pharmaceutical industry and insecticide manufacturers are completely opposed to Dunkel proposals;

(b) if so, what are their objections and to what extent Government have found them substantial;

(c) whether, it is a fact that Dunkel proposals are not amendable as they have suggested "Leave it or accept it as it is";

(d) what are the consequences of acceptance or rejection of Dunkel proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The main elements of objections to the compromise proposals of DG GATT in respect of the Uruguay Round of Negotiations in the area of trade related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) expressed by the pharmaceutical and chemical industry groups relate to patents. The proposals are being opposed mainly on the grounds that (a) prices of affected commodities would increases substantially; (b) importation being treated as working of the patent

@ Previously Starred Quesition of 71, transferred from the 30th April, 1992.

will destroy incentives to manufacture; (c) a twenty year term of patent will result in delaying introduction of new products; (d) research and development would become redundant; (e) Indian exports of such products would be affected; (f) patent protection on bio-technology will have adverse consequences on preventive medicine; (g) automatic licences of right are needed to bring about competition.

Government is examining all aspects of the compromise proposals of DG GATT for taking a final view.

The proposals of DG GATT are not in the nature of a "Leave it or accept it as it is" proposal. Some major participating countries have expressed less than full satisfaction with the proposals and have indicated a willingness to carry forward the negotiating process on the basis of these proposals.

India also intents to seek improvements in the proposals. Hence, the question of consequences of accepting or rejecting the proposals does not arise.

Impact of bomg blast in a hotel in the capital on foreign tourists

*212. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in a recent bomb blast in a hotel at Paharganj in the Capital a number of foreign tourists were injured causing panic among them;

(b) whether Government have studied the likely impact of this incident on the inflow of foreign tourist in the capital;

(c) whether Government are also aware that most of the injured foreign tourists were low budget tourists and after the incident they are feeling insecure, particularly, in the Capital; and

(d) what remedial action his Ministry propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MANDHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) On 23rd April, 1922 a bomb blast in Paharganj, Delhi injured 12 foreigners. It is not possible to guess the impact of an isolated incident on tourism as a whole. In April, 1992 tourist arrivals in Delhi increased by 36.2 per cent compared to April, 1991.

The Government has intensified patrolling and taken steps to educate hotel/restaurant owners and the general public regarding such incidents. Campaigns are carried out abroad by the Ministry of Tourism to reassure tourists.

Telephone and S.T.D. Facility in Tribal Areas of Andhra Pradesh

*213. SHRI M. M. HASHIM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any representation to improve telephone communication network in the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to grant STD facilities at Polavaram in the tribal areas of West Godavari in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to improve telephone facilities at Polavaram?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to provide STD facility at Polavaram by the end of the 8th Five Year Plan period (by March, 1997).

(c) Telephone facilities at Polavaram have been improved last year (1991-92) by coversion of 50 line electro-mechanical exchange to 128 Port C-DOT Digital Electronic Exchange.

Imposition of Cut on Release of States' Share in Central Taxes

*214. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to introduce fresh expenditure